

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PHNOM 02750 262228 Z

70/53

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W

----- 025373

R 261150 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 638

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USDEL FRANCE

CINCPAC

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 2750

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (T E X T)

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH MIN DEFENSE THAPPANA NGINN ON THE
INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION

1. IN A PRIVATE LUNCHEON CONVERSATION MARCH 26 I
DISCUSSED WITH THAPPANA NGINN MY CONCERN THAT THE MARSHAL
MAKE NEW EFFORTS TO BROADEN HIS POLITICAL BASE. ONE OF
THE THINGS HE COULD DO, I SUGGESTED, IS TO RE- INSTALL
IN TAM IN HIS OLD POSITION AS GOVERNOR OF KOMPONG CHAM
PROVINCE AND COMMANDER OF MILITARY REGION ONE (WE
HAVE LEARNED THAT MAJGEN MOUL KLENG, THE INCUMBENT, IS
BEING TRANSFERRED TO MR TWO). I ASKED THAPPANA NGINN
TO PASS THIS SUGGESTION TO THE MARSHAL FOR HIS
CONSIDERATION.

2. HE PROMISED TO DO SO THIS EVENING AND SAID THAT HE
HAD HIMSELF BEEN REFLECTING ON STEPS THE MARSHAL COULD
TAKE TO EFFECT A RECONCILIATION WITH SIRIK MATAK AS WELL.
HE THOUGHT SENDING MATAK AS AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON WOULD
SMELL TOO MUCH OF EXILE. I SAID THAT I WAS NOT AT ALL
SURE THE LON NOL- SIRIK MATAK RELATIONSHIP CAN BE
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 PHNOM 02750 262228 Z

RESTORED; IF IT CAN, PERHAPS SIRIK MATAK MIGHT BE
PERSUADED TO SERVE AS PRIME MINISTER OR PRIME MINISTER
DELEGUE IN A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT, BUT WE AGREED THIS
WOULD ENTAIL COMPROMISES BY ALL PARTIES AND A VASTLY
IMPROVED POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE.

3. THAPPANA NGINN ALSO SAID HE HAS BEEN PONDERING WHO
MIGHT BE APPOINTED TO THE OLD SIRIK MATAK POSITON OF
SPECIAL COUNSELOR TO THE PRESIDENT. HE BELIEVED FORMER
FINANCE MINISTER SON SANN (IN SELF- IMPOSED EXILE IN PARIS)
WOULD BE EXCELLENT BUT WOULD NEVER ACCEPT THE JOB BECAUSE OF HIS
MISGIVINGS ABOUT LON NOL. ANOTHER CANDIDATE MIGHT BE
NONG KIMNY NOW CURRENTLY AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA
AND INDIA. I CONCURRED THAT NONG KIMNY' S GOOD SENSE
AND INTERNATIONAL SAVOIR- FAIRE WERE EXCELLENT
QUALIFICATIONS.

4. COMMENT. NOTHING MAY COME OF THESE SUGGESTIONS
AND MUSINGS, BUT THAPPANA NGINN CLEARLY PERCEIVES THE
PROBLEM OF THE MARSHAL' S ISOLATION AND OCCASIONALLY
CARRIES SOME WEIGHT WITH HIM.
SWANK

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM02750
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730337/aaaaiggu.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Nov-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <13-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971224
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH MIN DEFENSE THAPPANA NGINN ON THE INTERNAL POLITICAL SITUATION
TAGS: PINT, CB
To: BANGKOK
CINCPAC
FRANCE
SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
VIENTIANE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005